capacity available with Food Corporation of Indja in Punjab and Haryana States as on 1.4.1994 was as under:—

(figure in lakh tonnes)

State	Total capacity	Stocks	Vacant space
Punjab	58.05	51.33	6.72
Haryana . . .	16.42	10.76	5.66

Food Cororation of India has taken steps for augmenting storage capacity throughout the country to meet the growing requirements of enhanced procurement and to ensure smooth functioning of procurement operations. During 1993-94 the Corporatjon hired an additional capacity of about 4.4 milion tonnes.

In addition to the above, the Field Officers have been delegated powers to hire additional capacity for accommodating wheat jn both procuring|consuming areas.

The total storage capacity of Food Corporation of India in the country as on 1.4.1994 was around 24 milljon tonnes which would take care of the procurement requirements.

(c) & (d) No targets for procurement of wheat are fixed as the same is procured under Price Support Scheme on voluntary basis. The actual procurement of wheat by all Government agencies during the last three Rabi Seasons and the estimated procurement of wheat during the current Rabi Season in Punjab and Haryana is indicated below:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Punjab	Haryana
1991-92	55.42	18.34
1992-93	44.88	13.72
1993-94	64.95	34.54
1994-95 (estimated)	70.00	27.00

Upto 30th April, 1994 the Punjab Region has procured 33.20 lakh tonnes and Haryana Region has procured 17.13 lakh tonnes.

Storage of essential commoditites FCT/CWC in Orissa

7166. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in certain districts of Orissa there is no provision for storage of essential commodities by Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation; and

(b) whether Food Corporation of India is planning to create additional storage space in (i) remote and hilly districts like Koraput, Kalahandi, Nawapara, Phulbari, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar (ii) in high procurement potential districts like Bargarh-Sambalpur-Bolangir-Sonapur, Ganjm Gajapet districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) (a) Yes, Sir. Till 31.3.93, there were 13 Revenue Districts in Orissa, out of which Food Corporation of India owned depots were in operation in all districts except in Cuttack and Mayurbhanj. After re-oranisation of revenue districts increasing the number to 30-12 revenue districts namely, Kendrapara, Puri, Navagarh, Gajapati, Boudh, Deogarh, Newapara, Malkangiri, Jajpur, Jagatsingpur,

Bolangir and Cuttack, remain without Food Corporation of India owned depot. The essential commodities for these districts are being stored in the nearest depots of the adjacent districts in the godowns hired from other Agencies and private parties.

Central Warehousing Corporation is operatin its 10 warehouses in 7 districts in the State of Orissa, namely Bargarh, Ganjam, Jeypore, Sambalpur, Jajpur Road, Cuttak and Khurda.

(b) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India has proposed to construct godowns at the following places.

Centre	Revenue District
1. Rayagada	Rayagada
2. Attabira	Bargarh
3. Umeiri	Koraput
4. Kesinga	Kalahandi

During 1993-94, a capacity of 10,000 Metric Tonnes has been completed at Badampahar in revenue dis trict Mayurbhanj.

It is not practical/economically viable to have Food Corporation of India owned godown in each revenue district. The construction of additional capacity is undertaken by Food Corporation of India keeping in view the requirement and availability of suitable land/funds.

Stopping of rice procurement by FCI

7167. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged Food Corporation of India to stop procurement of rice; and

(b) if so, what measures Government intend to take to prevent farmers to sell their additional production in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Government have decided not to accept levy rice beyond the statutory limit in any of the States. However, in the case of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa which are having two distinct procurement seasons for paddy, it has been agreed to accept the levy rice in excess of statutory limit prescribed for a particular season to be adjusted in due course for the whole year.

(b) Paddy is being procured by the Food Corporation of India and State procuring agencies from farmers at Minimum Support Prices under price support scheme through 6237 purchase centres opened during kharif marketing season 1993-94. Government is continuously monitoring implementation of the price support scheme for rabi and kharif foodgrains and all efforts are made to ensure that farmers are not compelled to sell their produce below the Minimum Support Price.

Effect of export of basmati rice on price of foodgrains

7168. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision to export Basmati rice is in keeping with the general prescription included in the structural adjustment programme;

(b) whether this decision will effect the price of Basmati; and

(c) if so, whether this will have a cascading effect on the price of other varieties of rice and other staple foodgrains? ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Open-export of Basmati rice has been allowed for the last many years. Export of Basmati rice provides the